

REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed May 27, 2004.

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 31, 32, 36-39 and 63 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Obara. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

I. Claims 1 and 31

Claims 1 and 31, as amended, recite:

a rotary hub surrounding the shaft, the rotary hub defining a unitary and integral hub extension that is disposed between the first and second bearings and that extends away from the rotary hub toward the longitudinal axis, the hub extension of the rotary hub being configured to reach beyond the first and second outer races and between the first and second inner races.

Amended claims 1 and 31, therefore, recite that the hub defines a unitary and integral hub extension. Therefore, according to the claimed embodiment, the hub extension is unitary and integral to the rotary hub.

In contrast, Obara teaches a spindle motor in which the closest structure - the spacer 6 - is a separate component from the rotor hub 8. In fact, the spacer 6 (analogized to the claimed hub extension in the outstanding Office Action) is separated from the rotor hub 8 by a metallic sleeve 5 fitted within the vertical through bore formed centrally through the motor hub 8. The spacer 6, therefore, cannot be unitary and integral with the rotary hub, as the sleeve 5 separates them. Please see Col. 3, lines 3-5 and reference numerals 6 and 17 in Obara's Figs. 1 and 2. Moreover, the spacer 26 of Obara's Prior Art Fig 3 is also not unitary and integral with the hub 25, as evidenced by Col. 1, lines 17-18 "...the reference numeral 26 is attached to a spacer to be

disposed between the bearings” and by the different hatching patterns of the two spindle motor parts in Obara’s Fig. 3.

Therefore, as the applied reference does not teach a rotary hub defining a unitary and integral hub extension, the 35 USC §102(e) rejections of claims 1 and 31 and their respective dependent claims are not believed to be tenable and should be withdrawn.

II. Claim 63

Claim 63, as amended, recites:

a hub surrounding the shaft, the hub defining a hub extension configured to exert a pre-loading force only on the first inner race, the pre-loading force being directed toward the second inner race;

It is respectfully submitted that only the claimed invention, and not Obara, includes a hub that defines an extension that is configured to exert a pre-loading force only on the first inner race, the pre-loading force being directed toward the second inner race. In each of Obara’s figures, it can be seen that the seal ring 27 (Fig. 3) or seal ring 7 (Figs. 1 and 2) presses against both the top inner and outer races 3a and 3b. In direct contrast, the claimed invention requires that the hub extension be configured to exert the pre-loading force only on the first inner race (corresponding to Obara’s inner race 3a). As the claimed invention requires that the hub extension exert the pre-loading force only on the first inner race and as Obara teaches that the seal ring should press against both the top inner and outer races, it is respectfully submitted that Obara cannot anticipate the spindle motor defined by amended claim 63. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejections applied to the above-listed claims are, therefore, respectfully requested.

As the rejections applied to the independent claims are believed to have been overcome, it is not believed necessary to discuss the rejections of dependent claims 9 and 39 at this time.

Applicants' attorney, therefore, respectfully submits that all claims are allowable and that the present application in condition for an early allowance and passage to issue. If any unresolved issues remain, please contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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